

BOOK REVIEWS

THE WESTERN JOURNAL OF MEDICINE does not review all books sent to it by the publishers. A list of new books received is carried in the Advertising Section.

AN HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF PHARMACOLOGY TO THE 20TH CENTURY—Chauncey D. Leake, MD, Department of Pharmacology, University of California, San Francisco—A Publication in The Bannerstone Division of American Lectures in Pharmacology—Edited by Elton L. McCawley, MD, Department of Pharmacology, University of Oregon Medical School, Portland. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, 301-327 East Lawrence Avenue, Springfield, IL (62717), 1975. 210 pages, \$12.50 Cloth, \$8.95 (Paperback).

In these fast moving times it is easy to forget that many of our most useful drugs (and poisons!) have their roots in antiquity. Dr. Leake's latest book is an excellent antidote for scientists with such lapses of memory. Consequently, even though the author considers his book "more appropriate for intelligent people generally than it is for professional pharmacologists or professional historians of medicine or science," it can be read with profit by anyone seriously interested in drug therapy. It is a rich source of information on pre-historic drug lore and the contents of early codifications of drugs and drug uses—it even tabulates the eight chief Egyptian medical papyri. More important, it traces the development of pharmacology through the long period of protopharmacology, and the transition to modern pharmacology around the close of the 18th century to the rapid, even explosive, development of pharmacology along with the other sciences in the 19th century. We are then left to contemplate the complex story of 20th century pharmacology and perhaps wonder how the labors and accomplishments of our times will look to future historians.

As always, Dr. Leake's easy style makes enjoyable reading—and history is better absorbed when administered in a palatable formulation. This book is not intended as the "definitive history of pharmacology," but it provides enough for most of us and a good takeoff point for anyone wishing to write the definitive history.

HENRY W. ELLIOTT, MD, PH D

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STROKE AND ITS REHABILITATION—Volume 12 of Physical Medicine Library—Edited by Sidney Licht, MD, Curator, Physical Medicine Collections, Yale University Medical Library, New Haven; Associate Professor, Medical Library Science, University of Miami; With 16 contributors. Elizabeth Licht, Publisher, P.O. Box J, New Haven, CT (06515), 1975. 562 pages, \$20.00.

This 12th volume of Dr. Licht's Physical Medicine Library again demonstrates his skills as an editor. He has attempted to collate pathology, diagnosis and medical and surgical management with the neurophysiological basis for rehabilitation of stroke victims into one comprehensive volume. Dr. Licht's expertise as a historian provides significant insight into the development of modern day management of hemiplegia.

An excellent chapter on the selection of wheelchairs for hemiplegic patients has been included which thoroughly discusses the accessories commonly available with specific indications as well as contraindications for their use. All too often the ambulatory capability of a stroke victim is impeded by inappropriate prescription of such assistive devices. One would like to see a more comprehensive discussion, perhaps even a separate section, on bracing of the lower extremity, including criteria for prescription as well as photographs of the devices frequently used in stroke rehabilitation.

One question that frequently arises in cerebrovascular accidents is how to select the patient who is a candidate

for an aggressive, active rehabilitation program. A most thorough review, which should be considered essential reading for most medical specialists, is the chapter on rehabilitation potential by Dr. Jerome Gersten. It is perhaps the most comprehensive evaluation of documented prognostic factors that I have yet seen. Reference to this chapter could potentially decrease the costs of a rehabilitation program by more accurately selecting proper candidates. Excellent reviews are presented of physical therapy, occupational therapy in disorders of communication, and nursing care of stroke patients. The latter chapter should be required for all co-care programs for neurologic patients. The six clinical chapters provide good reviews, and of particular interest are the chapters on pharmacologic measures and surgical measures in stroke. The index is comprehensive and easy to use.

This book should have wide appeal as both a reference work and a clinical tome for residents and specialists dealing with cardiovascular disease, neurologic disorders and rehabilitation.

SHELDON BERROL, MD

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GENERAL UROLOGY—Eighth Edition—Donald R. Smith, MD, Chairman and Professor, Division of Urology, University of California, San Francisco; Consulting Urologist, San Francisco General Hospital; Consulting Surgeon (Urology), Veterans Administration Hospital, San Francisco. Lange Medical Publications, Drawer L, Los Altos, CA (94022), 1975. 492 pages, \$11.00.

Professor Donald R. Smith, of the University of California, San Francisco has "done it again," with the Eighth Edition of his already world-famous book, *General Urology*. He has once more given us the most complete, useful single volume paperback reference that there is in the urological textbook literature. He has brought us up-to-date from the excellent previous editions in English (which have been translated into German, Polish, Spanish and other languages).

The title is correct, *General Urology*, and Smith covers the whole field with the help of a number of well chosen special authors. For example, Tanagho on "The Embryology of the Genitourinary System" and Powell and Weiss on "Radioisotopic Kidney Studies." A particularly interesting chapter is "Skin Diseases of the External Genitalia" by Rees; and there is a chapter full of information on "Abnormalities of Sexual Differentiation" by Conte, Reiter and Grumbach. A new and valuable addition is "Ultrasonic Examination of the Urinary Tract" by Granville Cogg.

The paperback volume is lithographed and produced by Lange Medical Publications. It has a maximum amount of information about urology packed into a minimum of space. There may be some question about whether the chapter on "Impotence" is up-to-date; and there is an understandable personal bias concerning references to the literature from the various University of California medical faculties; for example, the section on "Renovascular Hypertension." The book is unusually well illustrated.

On the whole, the work is extremely useful and comprehensive. I tell our medical students it is a *must* for any student of urology.

WILLARD E. GOODWIN, MD